

TWENTY-FIFTH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOURNE
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1897,

BY

James Watson Burdwood,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.


Fellow Royal Institute of Public Health,

Member of the Sanitary Institute,

Member of the British Medical Association, &c., &c.

BOURNE:

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TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Bourne Rural Sanitary District,

For the Year 1897.

Bourne, Feb. 1st, 1898.

To the Bourne Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

A great deal of sickness has occurred in the Bourne Rural Sanitary District during the past year, consisting chiefly of Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping-cough, and Influenza. Diphtheria was prevalent at Rippingale in the commencement of the year, and at Horbling in March and November. Measles was prevalent throughout the District. Influenza occurred principally at Bourne and Market Deeping, but the number of deaths returned under the above-named diseases were very few, the death-rate being only slightly increased. The number of births has increased during the past year, there being 514, against 468 for the year 1896, showing an increase of 46. The number of deaths has also increased, there being 300 for the year 1897, against 288 for the preceding year 1896, showing an increase of 12. The death rate has slightly increased to 15 per 1000. The infant mortality is 126 per 1000 births. 105 cases of infectious disease, against 201 cases in the

preceding year, showing a decrease of 96 cases, have been notified to your Medical Officer of Health during the year. There have been 13 deaths from Zymotic disease, viz.: eight from Diphtheria, three from Membranous Croup, and two from Typhoid Fever. There have been no deaths from Scarlatina; the number of deaths from Pulmonary disease is about the same as in the preceding year. There were seven deaths from Measles, five from Whooping-cough, and ten deaths from injuries. One man died accidentally from an overdose of laudanum, one boy was accidentally killed by the discharge of a pistol, one boy was killed by lightning, two men were found drowned, and one woman was accidentally drowned, two men and one boy were killed by accidents, three men committed suicide, one woman hung herself, and one man died from cutting his own throat. Annexed are the usual Tables, showing the number of deaths during the year 1897, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities; also a Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Disease coming to my knowledge during the year 1897, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities. There is also a Table of Births and Deaths for each quarter of the year.

BOURNE.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever, one case of Typhoid Fever, two cases of Membranous Croup, and eight cases of Diphtheria occurred in this town. The usual precautions were taken. The Board Schools were closed owing to an epidemic of Measles. The Infant and National Schools were also closed on account of the same epidemic.

The public sewer in the Eastgate, near Mrs. Fittis' house, having become defective was remedied at a cost of £1 10s. 7d.

The sewer in the Star Lane, near Pinfold Lane, became defective and was remedied at a cost of £2 12s. 2d.

The sewer in the North Street became blocked up, it was cleaned out and properly flushed at a cost of £2 1s. 0d.

The sewer in West Street became defective, this was remedied at a cost of 8s. 8d.

A manhole connected with the sewer in the North Road became defective, this was remedied at a cost of £1 16s. 8d.

The sewer in Star Lane, near the Abbey Field gate, became defective, and was remedied at a cost of 15s. 2d.

A drain in the Mill Lane, Eastgate, became defective. The Sanitary Authority ordered a new sewer to be made. This was done at a cost of £8 16s. 8d.

The manhole in the sewer in the North Road became blocked up, it was opened and cleaned out at a cost of £1 5s. 10d.

The public sewer in Church Lane became defective, this was remedied at a cost of £3 19s. 11d.

Several of the old gullies in the public streets became defective ; they were replaced by proper stoneware gullies at a cost of £19 16s. 7d.

An out-house in the Eastgate, the property of the Marquis of Exeter, and occupied by S. W. as a dwelling place, was quite unfit for that purpose, and was ordered to be closed.

Over-crowding occurred in the Eastgate, at a house the property of John Pollard, and occupied by F. F. The house contained only one small bedroom, in which the husband, wife, and five children slept ; this was remedied.

The watercourse between the Masons' Arms and the Mill in South Street became foul and offensive, this was remedied by having it cleaned out.

The Weir Dyke became foul and offensive, this was remedied by having it cleaned out at a cost of £29.

DYKE.

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village. It was stated in my last Annual Report that the water supply had become deficient, and that the Sanitary Authority had decided to have a new bore made at a cost of £37 10s. 0d. This has been done and there is now a plentiful supply of water.

MORTON.

A ditch in this village between the Railway Station and the Carr Dyke became foul owing to sewage draining into it. The nuisance was remedied by having the ditch cleaned out.

The open Beck near Mrs. Freeman's having been complained of several times as a nuisance, it was decided to cover in the same. A brick culvert was constructed from her house and connected with the sewer down the main street at a cost of £58 3s. 1d.

The Beck from the Church down to the Railway Station was in a very foul state, several inches of sediment having accumulated, causing a very objectionable smell. The Beck was ordered to be cleaned out and disinfected. This was done and the nuisance abated. The Beck should be covered in. The nuisance referred to above is aggravated by persons keeping pigs being allowed to drain their pig-sties into the Beck.

(A)

*TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to
DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(Columns for Population and Births are in Table B). (a)</i>	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	At all Ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards (h)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
									Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease	*	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.	
													Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.														
ASLACKBY	84	26	11	8	1	13	25	Under 5			2									5	3	2				8				17	37
							5 upwds.			4			1							1					7	3			31	47	
BOURNE. H.	83	20	4	3	2	20	34	Under 5			1	1								2					4	1			15	24	
							5 upwds.															1	1	6	5		2	44	59		
CORBY	52	8	3	4	1	16	20	Under 5				2																	9	11	
							5 upwds.																2	6	4		1	28	41		
DEEPING	73	11	1		3	19	39	Under 5			1									1			1	5					4	12	
							5 upwds.						1									4	11	6		6	33	61			
							Under 5																								
							5 upwds.																								
BOURNE WORKHOUSE	8					1	7	Under 5																			1		1	6	8
							5 upwds.																								
							Under 5																								
							5 upwds.																								
							Under 5																								
							5 upwds.																								
							Under 5																								
							5 upwds.																								
TOTALS	300	65	19	15	7	16	125	Under 5			4	3								7	4	2		1	17	1			45	84	
							5 upwds.			4			2								1		1	7	30	19		10	142	216	

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, *coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the BOURNE RURAL DISTRICT; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.												
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Cancer.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			
ASLACKBY	5763	5783	109	Under 5 5 upwds.			10 18																							
BOURNE. H.	6327	6427	224	Under 5 5 upwds.			3 5																							
CORBY	3564	3616	87	Under 5 5 upwds.			3 5																							
DEEPING	4091	4132	94	Under 5 5 upwds.			2 6																							
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
BOURNE WORKHOUSE				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
				Under 5 5 upwds.																										
TOTALS	19,745	19,958	514	Under 5 5 upwds.		5 14	14 26	2 3		3			2		38		20													

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District—Yes. Since when? October 1st, 1892. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated—Bourne Fever Hospital.

TABLE C.

BIRTHS.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	
ASLACKBY ...	33	20	30	26	109
BOURNE ...	67	50	44	63	224
CORBY ...	21	24	28	14	87
DEEPING ...	31	19	22	22	94
Totals ...	152	113	124	125	514

DEATHS.	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	
ASLACKBY ...	18	29	18	19	84
BOURNE ...	23	24	19	25	91
CORBY ...	13	14	14	11	52
DEEPING ...	15	16	13	29	73
Totals ...	69	83	64	84	300

The water supply of this village having become very deficient, it was determined to construct a new bore; this is now being done.

STAINFIELD.

One case of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village.

An old sewer became blocked up, it was cleaned out and a new one constructed at a cost of £5 1s. 6d.

HACCONBY.

A ditch in the upper part of this village receiving a quantity of sewage became foul and offensive. This was remedied by cleaning out the same at an expense of 19s.

A ditch in the lower part of the village also receiving sewage became foul. This was remedied by cleaning it out at an expense of £1 6s. 6d.

DUNSBY.

One fatal case of Diphtheria occurred in this village. One case of Puerperal Fever also occurred.

The village sewer became blocked up. This was remedied at a cost of £8 15s. 0d.

DOWSBY.

A fatal case of Puerperal Fever occurred in this village. The usual precautions were taken.

A stream in this village, from which the occupants of several cottages obtain their drinking water, became polluted by a quantity of ducks being allowed to be there, and also from washing sheep in the stream. No steps have as yet been taken to remedy this evil.

RIPPINGALE.

Several cases of Diphtheria occurred in this village and three deaths resulted therefrom. The School was closed and before being re-opened was thoroughly disinfected.

A new well is being made in this village. The Beck near this well was in a foul state, but has since been remedied.

BILLINGBOROUGH.

Owing to the prevalence of Measles in this village in March, the Schools were closed. Owing to the prevalence of Whooping-cough in October the Schools were again closed.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in this village. The water supply was good, and the drainage satisfactory.

A ditch receiving a quantity of sewage became foul and offensive, this was remedied by cleaning it out.

The Springs from which drinking water is obtained became foul, they were cleared out and the nuisance abated.

The North Beck became landed up, and in a foul and offensive condition; this was remedied by having it cleaned out.

HORBLING.

Owing to the prevalence of Measles in this village in April the Schools were closed.

A severe epidemic of Diphtheria occurred in November and several fatal cases resulted. The Schools were closed and the children in this village were not allowed to attend Billingborough Schools.

The Beck running through the village was in a foul state, and, as many of the inhabitants were in the habit of using the water for drinking purposes, I suggested that a pipe be laid from the springs—where there is a plentiful supply—down the village, with stand pipes at intervals, this would do away with the objection many make as to the distance they have to go to fetch water, and would also

obviate the use of the water in the Beek for domestic, and other purposes. It has not yet been done. The Beek should be cleaned out oftener, and the brick portion continued further down the village.

Over-crowding occurred at a house in the occupation of E. R. The privy on these premises had no vault and was in a filthy condition. There was neither drainage or proper water supply. These defects have been remedied.

The sewage ditch beyond the village became foul and a nuisance. This was remedied by having it cleaned out at an expense of £1 10s. 0d.

POINTON.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in this village. The Schools were closed.

The sewage ditch in this village became foul and offensive. The nuisance was abated by cleaning out the ditch at a cost of £1 4s. 9d. A portion was also covered in at a cost of £9 12s. 0d.

The sewage ditch near the School became foul. This was remedied by having it cleaned out.

FOLKINGHAM.

An old stone sewer in the Pickworth Road near this village became very defective, a new one was therefore constructed at a cost of £11 4s. 1d.

A sewage ditch on the side of the Billingborough Road became foul. It was cleaned out at a cost of 16s. 3d.

A sewage ditch near the Rectory became foul and a nuisance; remedied by cleaning out the same at a cost of £1 10s. 0d.

A stone sewer at the end of the village became defective, a new one was constructed at a cost of £21.

LAUGHTON.

One fatal case of Typhoid Fever occurred here. It was that of a man over 60 years of age who was taken ill in Aslackby Fen, and brought to Laughton and subsequently died.

ASLACKBY.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in this village. The Schools were closed.

EDENHAM.

An old sewer in the Scottlethorpe Road in this village became defective and blocked up. To remedy the defect the Sanitary Authority ordered a new sewer to be constructed. This was done at a cost of £27 16s. 8d.

WYTHAM-ON-THE-HILL.

An epidemic of Measles occurred in this village, and the Schools were closed. One case of Scarlet Fever, and one fatal case of Membranous Croup also occurred.

LITTLE BYTHAM.

Four cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village.

CASTLE BYTHAM.

Owing to an epidemic of Whooping-cough in this village the Schools were closed. One case of Scarlatina also occurred.

The temporary Hospital has been disinfected and painted at a cost of £1 5s. 0d.

SWAYFIELD.

One case of overcrowding occurred in this village at a house in the occupation of H. R. The house contains two small bed-rooms, in which the husband, wife, three adult sons, and an unmarried daughter with her three children all slept. This was remedied by the daughter and her children leaving the house.

SWINSTEAD.

Three cases of Diphtheria occurred in this village. The water supply was good.

CORBY.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village.

MANTHORPE.

A ditch in this village receiving sewage became very offensive. The nuisance was abated by cleaning out the ditch at a cost of £4 7s. 10d.

THURLBY.

A sewer in this village became defective and a nuisance. This was remedied by constructing a new sewer at a cost of £5 13s. 10d.

BASTON.

Several cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village. The usual instructions were given.

MARKET DEEPING.

One fatal case of Typhoid Fever occurred in this town. Both the water and milk supply were examined and found to be good. The usual precautions were taken, and no other case resulted.

DEEPING ST. JAMES.

Three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in this village.

An old un-inhabited dilapidated cottage being in a dangerous condition was ordered to be pulled down. This was done.

The River Welland became foul and offensive. This was ordered to be remedied by cleaning out the same. This was done at a cost of £5.

It has of late been under discussion as to whether Influenza should be notified, and also whether it would not

be wise to isolate the first cases ; in my opinion it would be neither advisable to notify or isolate, one reason for that opinion is, that most persons affected with slight colds attribute it to Influenza. From my own personal observation, many who have suffered from colds, headache, or pain in the back have attributed it to Influenza ; there are no doubt many mild attacks of Influenza, but as a rule it is no simple ailment enabling those suffering from it to pursue their ordinary avocations, but a very serious illness, and when complicated frequently fatal.

In reference to the drainage in the district, the remarks made in former Reports will equally apply in this Report, as to the want in most parishes of a proper drainage system. It is to be observed that where epidemics of disease have occurred there has in all cases always been present either polluted wells, or foul becks, as well as imperfect drains, and in some instances springs have been allowed to become foul. In one village where Diphtheria was very prevalent it was ascertained that a drain emptied directly into a well from which the residents pumped the water to be used for domestic purposes.

The Bourne Rural District Council have, to a certain extent, delegated, in several instances, their Sanitary powers, this in my opinion is a mistake, as when complaints have been made to the Parish Authorities by the Medical Officer of Health as to the condition of the becks, piggeries, &c., they said they would comply with his instructions, but subsequently failed to do so, and the matter has after all had to be brought under the notice of the District Council.

The Local Government Board have recently issued a Circular on the subject of Public Water Supplies ; it was

not an alarmist document, but simply a prudent warning, which should promptly stimulate the Inhabitants of the District to see that those who have the charge of procuring a good and plentiful supply of water should not be allowed to be remiss in their duties. The epidemics of Typhoid Fever which have attracted so much attention during the last few months were not caused by any exceptional state of things in the localities affected, but are symptomatic of a condition of neglect far more widely prevalent than is commonly supposed. Even where preventable illness is constantly present, and its causes have been demonstrated after thorough inquiry, very often no action is taken, or reform is begun only to be dropped or obstructed so soon as the first excitement has passed. If this is the behaviour of towns or villages which have actually suffered from the consequences of neglect, and know the danger they are in, it seems useless to address any admonitions to those who have hitherto escaped with impunity; the immediate lesson which it is sought to impress, is the necessity of guarding against the contamination of public water supplies. When properly maintained and looked after, they are one of the most efficient means of promoting public health, as experience has repeatedly shown; but when neglected they constitute the greatest danger that can threaten a community.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. WATSON BURDWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,

For the Year 1897.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my Twenty-fifth Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1897, showing the amount of work I have had carried out under your Authority.

235 Ordinary Visits and Inspections made.

394 Yards, 2 feet, of new 12, 9, and 6 inch Sanitary Socket Pipe Sewers laid, including 12 Stoneware Street Gullies complete, at a cost of £151 15s. 8d.

21 Large Street Gullies fixed in Bourne and Corby, at a cost of £31 11s. 7d.

Several of the Sewers in Bourne have been taken up, cleaned out, or repaired, at a cost of £24 6s. 10d.

39 Houses and a School were Limewashed or Fumigated after Infectious Disease, and in each case were provided with Disinfectants, &c.

2 Cases of Over-crowding were brought under the notice of the Authority.

12 New Drains laid.

14 New Gully Traps were fixed.

4 New Privies and Water Closets constructed.

16 Defective Privies remedied and Drains put in order.

113 Nuisances removed.

17 Offensive Ditches and Watercourses cleaned out, including Several Sewage Ditches, the latter costing £41 11s. 6d.

7 Samples of water were taken for analysis.

3 New wells sunk.

6 School Closets ventilated, &c.

5 Wells, &c., cleaned out.

2 Notices served as to Water Supply.

8 New Cesspools and Ashpits built or covered over.

2 Houses Repaired and Limewashed.

2 Houses Closed as unfit for habitation, and afterwards taken down.

9 New Houses Inspected prior to occupation, and certificates given.

500 Yards of Sanitary Pipe Sewer cleaned out in Dunsby, at a cost of £8 15s. 0d, which was paid by the Governors of the Charter House.

9 Special Reports, &c., to the Medical Officer of Health.

The Hospitals at Bourne and Castle Bytham have undergone certain Repairs, also Limewashed and Painted; the former at a cost of £16 1s. 0d. and the latter £1 5s. 0d.

55 Notices were served.

207 Letters were written on the Business of the Office.

46 Visits were made to Registered Dairies and Cow Sheds within the District, which have all been twice Lime-washed, &c.

The Common Lodging-houses, Slaughter-houses, &c., have received periodical visits.

In addition to the above, a great deal of time has been taken up in preparing Plans and Specifications for Drainage Works, &c., and attending upon the same.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. VINTER,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Bourne, Feb. 18th, 1898.